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TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL RECIFE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO PRIORITY

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FOR AMBASSADOR DCM AND PRINCIPAL OFFICER ONLY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: AMGT AR BR CI PA UY SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

ASDAR FOR JULY 18

(S) ARGENTINA: TERRORIST BOMBING IN BUENOS AIRES. A SECRET

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SUSPECTED CAR BOMBING HAS DESTROYED THE ISRAELI-ARGENTINE
MUTUAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING IN BUENOS AIRES. THE
SEVEN-STORY BUILDING HOUSED A VARIETY OF SOCIAL SERVICE
AGENCIES. LATEST REPORTS ARE THAT 22 PEOPLE WERE KILLED
AND UP TO 100 INJURED, BUT NO US CITIZENS WERE INVOLVED.
PRESIDENT MENEM HAS PLACED CONTROLS ON THE BORDER
(NUMEROUS FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN DELAYED) TO KEEP THE
PERPETRATORS FROM ESCAPING. WE HAVE OFFERED TO SEND AN
INTERAGENCY INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM TO ASSIST IN THE
INVESTIGATION. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS CONSIDERING

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(D) DECLASSIFY AFTER: 18 JUL 2019 DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2009 200705645

UNCLASSIFIED

# **UNCLASSIFIED**

OUR OFFER. RADIO MITRE IN BA REPORTS THAT "ISLAMIC COMMAND" HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY. HIZBALLAH IS A PRIME SUSPECT IN THE CURRENT BOMBING AS THEY WERE IN THE MARCH 1992 BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BA WHICH KILLED 24 AND INJURED 250. CONDOLENCE MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT MENEM AND FM DITELLA HAVE BEEN PREPARED. DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT TELEPHONED OUR CONDOLENCES TO ARGENTINE AMB. GRANILLO OCAMPO. (COOKE)

|   | (0) | ARGENTINA: | SUPPORT | FOR | MAINTAINING | IRAQ | SANCTIONS. |
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(C) ARGENTINA: CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE ON THE MALVINAS. A PROPOSAL BY FM DITELLA TO LINK CONSTITUTIONALLY GUARANTEED RIGHTS FOR "KELPERS" TO A CONSTITUTIONAL CLAUSE ASSERTING ARGENTINA'S SOVEREIGHTY CLAIM TO THE MALVINAS ISLANDS SEEMS DOOMED TO FAILURE. TIERRA DEL FUEGO PROVINCE DELEGATES TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ARE SECRET

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RESISTING THIS FEDERAL ENCROACHMENT ON WHAT IS SEEN AS THEIR TURF. (COOKE)

- (C) MERCOSUR/EU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT NOT JUST AROUND THE CORNER. AN ARGENTINE MFA RESPONSIBLE FOR MERCOSUR AFFAIRS STRESSED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF IS THEIR TOP PRIORITY. WHILE THE IDEA OF A MERCOSUR/EU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WAS DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS AT THE RIO GROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING, BOTH SIDES ULTIMATELY DECIDED TO SEEK A BROADENING OF EXISTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS TO INCLUDE TRADE, ONCE MERCOSUR BECOMES A CUSTOMS UNION IN 1995. THE MFA OFFICIAL WAS NEGATIVE ABOUT FTA WITH THE EUROPEANS, AND STATED THAT IT "WAS NOT IMMINENT". (NEBLITT)
- (U) CHILE: CUSTOMS AGREEMENT. THE US CUSTOMS SERVICE IS RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS ON A CUSTOMS MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH CHILE, ACCORDING TO A JULY 6 LETTER TO CHILE'S CUSTOMS DIRECTOR FROM DOUGLAS BROWNING, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT US CUSTOMS. THE DRAFT AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR INFORMATION SHARING, JUDICIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND INVESTIGATIVE COOPERATION IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF CUSTOMS LAWS. (FEATHERSTONE)

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## UNCLASSIFIED

(U) BRAZIL: WORLD CUP CONGRATULATIONS: AT OUR SUGGESTION TO NSC STAFF, PRESIDENT CLINTON CALLED AFTER SUNDAY'S MATCH TO CONGRATULATE COACH PARREIRA OF THE VICTORIOUS BRAZILIAN NATIONAL TEAM. THE PRESIDENT'S ATTEMPT TO REACH PRESIDENT FRANCO AFTER THE GAME, HOWEVER, DID NOT SUCCEED. WE PREPARED AND FAXED TO THE NSC TODAY A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO FRANCO. (CASWELL) SECRET

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(C) ARGENTINA: CIVAIR AGREEMENT STALLED. THE SIGNING OF FRIDAY'S CIVAIR AGREEMENT WITH THE GOA HAS BEEN STALLED DUE TO INABILITY TO AGREE ON THE LANGUAGE OF A WAIVER (OF THE OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL STANDARD) TO BE ISSUED BY DOT TO AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS. THE GOA (AT THE CAVALLO LEVEL) THOUGHT IT WAS GETTING A "CLEAN WAIVER"; DOT AND EB NOW INSIST THAT THE WAIVER BE CONDITIONED ON THE REMAINING IN FORCE OF THE NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT. AS OF COB TODAY, THE GOA HAS MADE AN EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE THE USG POSITION WITH LANGUAGE THAT MAKES THE REQUESTED LINKAGE. DOT LAWYERS WANT MORE IRONCLAD LANGUAGE THAT THEY BELIEVE WILL GIVE THEM A STRONGER POSITION IN A HYPOTHETICAL FUTURE ARBITRATION. IF THE AGREEMENT IS NOT SIGNED. THERE WILL BE CONTINUING PRESSURE ON DOT TO TAKE ACTION TO FORCE ARGENTINA TO LIBERALIZE ITS CIVAIR REGIME. WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE WE HAVE ACHIEVED OUR ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVES ON INCREASED FLIGHT FREQUENCIES IN THIS NEGOTIATION. (BELLEGARDE) TALBOTTOQOQOQO

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